

## AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

Please replace paragraph [0004] with the following amended paragraph:

**[0004]** And as methods of heating this column, there are available, for example, first as shown in Figure 11, a method which involves winding an insulated heater tube 90 like a sheathed heater directly on a tube 91 to be heated (hereinafter briefly called a tube 91), such as a column, thereby to heat the tube, second as shown in Figure 12, a method which involves using a double construction tube consisting of a tube 91 and an outer tube 92 formed around this tube and heating the tube by introducing a high-temperature gas, such as the heated air, into the space formed between the outer tube 92 and the tube 91, third as shown in Figure 13, which involves using a direct heating tube, by which electrodes 93, 93 are provided at both ends of a tube 91 and the tube 91 is heated by causing a DC current or an AC current to flow directly through the tube 91, and fourth as shown in Figure 14, a method which involves inserting a heater 95 and a sensor 96 along with a tube 91 into a heating block 94 made of aluminum, brass and the like and performing heating, whereby the inserted tube 91 is heated and the temperature of the tube is kept, these methods being disclosed for example in National Publication of International Patent Application No. Japanese Patent Laid-open No. Heisei 5-502734 and Japanese Patent Laid-Open No. 6-222048.